

Carbon Monoxide is Dangerous!

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can cause brain damage and death. It can be formed by open flames or fuel-burning appliances. Carbon monoxide poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning death in the United States, claiming nearly 500 lives and leading to more than 15,000 visits to emergency rooms across the country.

When buildings are not properly vented, CO from common household appliances builds up and displaces oxygen. Early symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, nausea, and fatigue and are often mistaken for other causes. For this reason, CO alarms are extremely important. CO alarms do not detect smoke, although there are some combination smoke/CO alarms.



What kind of alarm should I use?

CO alarms must bear the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label or a similar mark from an independent product safety certification organization.



Who is responsible for the alarms?

Owners must install working alarms. *Tenants* must monitor and test the alarms. If the CO alarm malfunctions, tenants must alert the owner in writing. The owner then has five days to repair the alarm.

Tampering or disabling the alarms is illegal, dangerous, and can cause serious liability concerns!

Find more information online!

For one- and two-family dwellings:

- State of Wisconsin Chapter SPS 321.097: Carbon Monoxide Alarms

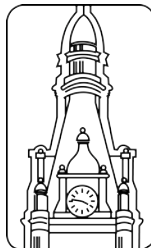
- State of Wisconsin Chapter SPS 328: Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

For multi-unit residential dwellings:

- Refer to the International Building Code Chapter 12, Wisconsin Code Inserts

Helpful DNS Phone Numbers

286-2268	Administration Office General
286-2514	Boiler
286-3874	Code Enforcement-Commercial
286-2268	Code Enforcement-Residential
286-2557	Condemnation
286-2513	Construction
286-8211	Development Center
286-2532	Electrical
286-3860	Enforcement (Court)
286-3538	Environmental
286-8715	Graffiti Hotline
286-2954	Landlord Training Schedule
286-8211	Microfilm Records
286-5608	Neighborhood Improvement Dev. Corp.(NIDC)
286-8244	Outreach
286-8211	Permit Desk
286-3361	Plumbing
286-8569	Property Registration Program



City of
Milwaukee
Department of
Neighborhood
Services

Carbon Monoxide Alarms



Carbon monoxide alarms are required in **most** residential dwellings

- Where do I install alarms?
- Who is responsible?
- How should I install them?

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



What buildings require alarms?

1. One- and two-family dwellings that contain fuel-burning appliances.
2. Multi-unit (three or more unit) residential buildings that contain fuel-burning appliances.
3. Buildings with attached garages.

Examples of fuel-burning appliances:

Gas stoves, ovens, grills, dryers, furnaces, boilers, water heaters, fireplaces and heaters.

Where are alarms NOT required?

CO alarms do not need to be installed in buildings without fuel-burning appliances, unfinished attics, detached garages, and storage areas. If all of the fuel-burning appliances are of sealed-combustion type under warranty or annually inspected for carbon monoxide emissions, the building does not need a CO alarm.

How should I install the alarms?

If your single-family home or duplex was built *after* 2011 or your multi-unit building was built after 2008, the CO alarms must be powered by the building's electrical system, include a backup battery, and be connected to all other alarms within the living unit. If your building was built *before* these dates, alarms may be battery powered and do not require interconnection.

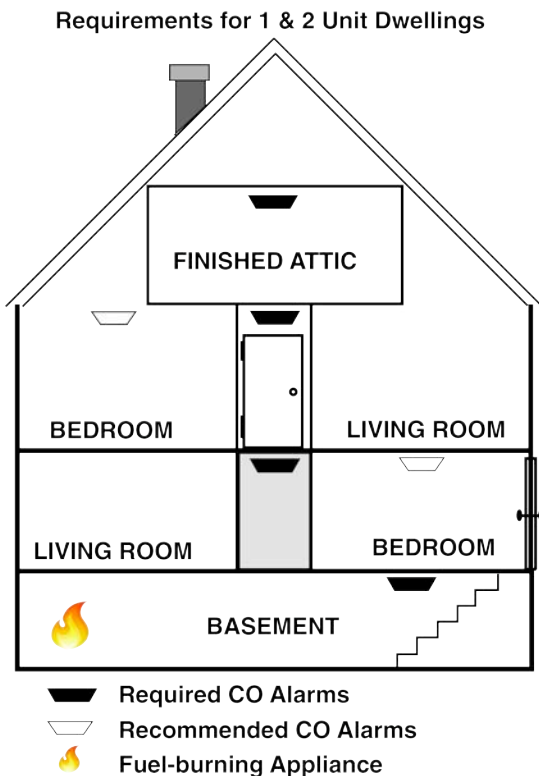
If a combination smoke/CO alarm is used, it is recommended that it be installed on the ceiling or per manufacturer's instructions. If a single function CO alarm is used, it can be mounted at any level in the room.

Always install alarms per the manufacturer's instructions.

Where should I install the alarms?

One- and Two-Family Dwellings:

1. In the basement of the building if the basement has a fuel-burning appliance.
2. On floor levels that contain one or more sleeping areas, an alarm shall be installed outside of the sleeping area, within 21 feet of the centerline of the door opening to any sleeping area and in an exit path from any sleeping area.
3. On floor levels that do not contain a sleeping area, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in a common area on each floor level.



Multi-unit residential buildings:

1. In the basement of the building if the basement has a fuel-burning appliance.
2. Within 15 ft. of each sleeping area of a unit with a fuel-burning appliance OR that is immediately adjacent to a unit with a fuel-burning appliance. In this case, adjacent units refer to those on the same floor level.
3. In any room not used as a sleeping area containing a fuel-burning appliance, the alarm must be within 75 ft. of the appliance.
4. In each hallway from a unit containing a fuel-burning appliance, the alarm must be within 75 ft. of the door of the unit. If there is not an outlet within this distance, the alarm must be placed at the closest available electrical outlet in the hallway.

Requirements for Multi-unit Residential (3+)

